

## AUGUST 2004 IRP E-NEWS

### *Brought to You by the Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP)*

*The IRP mission is to join diverse public and private resources in innovative collaborations to strengthen communities and improve life in rural Idaho.*

**Upcoming IRP Meetings** - IRP has a series of upcoming activities and welcomes your involvement in all of them. Please mark your calendar for the following events:

August 4      IRP Board of Directors Meeting, Albion, All day; *Featuring City of Rocks National Reserve & Castle Rocks State Park*

August 25      IRP Economic Development Committee Meeting, 10 a.m. – Noon,  
Idaho Department of Commerce

September 8 – 9      Rexburg Community Review

October 27      IRP Environment Committee Meeting, 9 am - Noon

November 4      IRP Board of Directors Meeting, Eastern Idaho, All day; *Featuring Partners for Prosperity and Canamex*

For more information about any of these activities, to volunteer for a committee or to sign up for the IRP newsletter go to [www.irp.idaho.gov](http://www.irp.idaho.gov).

**IRP Staff Transition** – In early July, Sara Braasch announced to the IRP Board that she is leaving the Idaho Rural Partnership to go to work for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service as the Regional Assistant Chief for the 13 western states and the Pacific Basin. Braasch's last day at IRP is August 3<sup>rd</sup> and IRP Co Chairs Roger Madsen and Trent Clark have asked Dwight Johnson to serve as the Interim Executive Director. If you have any questions or needs with IRP please contact Interim Executive Director Dwight Johnson at (208) 332-3570 ext 3209 or [djohnson@jobservice.us](mailto:djohnson@jobservice.us). You can also reach IRP's part time administrative assistant Vickie Winkel at 208/334-3131 or [vwinkel@irp.state.id.us](mailto:vwinkel@irp.state.id.us).

**Idaho Rural Summit** - Mark your calendar and plan to attend the 2005 Idaho Rural Summit. The Summit will be held in Idaho Falls in conjunction with the Governor's Conference on Tourism & Recreation the week of May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Additional details will be provided as they become available. The next meeting of the planning committee is on Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 – 3:30 at the Idaho Department of Commerce with conference call participation available. If you would like to be a member of the planning committee please contact Vickie Winkel at 334-3131 or [vwinkel@irp.state.id.us](mailto:vwinkel@irp.state.id.us).

**Community Change Workshop** - All communities have the necessary ingredients for creating healthy communities. This workshop will help your community to fortify existing efforts by identifying and mobilizing internal resources and by developing a framework to better coordinate and connect programs and initiatives. A Community Change Workshop is a one and one-half day training event where participants learn how to move from need-focused problem solving to a strength-based approach to create a healthy community. The Workshop is highly interactive and will include problem-solving sessions. Other key components of each Workshop are Uncover, connect, mobilize and utilize untapped community resources, Foster a spirit of civic engagement and encouragement, Facilitate discussion around concrete next-steps for comprehensive development and Provide technical assistance for coalition-building, asset and resource mapping. The workshops will be held in nine different Idaho communities. Space is limited to 75 participants per workshop. A registration fee of \$20 includes meals and materials. *Scholarships are available for those who would otherwise be unable to attend – please do not hesitate to*

*contact us for more details. Call or e-mail Deb Krum at 336-5533 x 293, [dkrum@mtnstatesgroup.org](mailto:dkrum@mtnstatesgroup.org) for additional information.*

**Rural ED Pro's** - Governor Kempthorne announced last month that twelve areas of the state will receive the funds necessary to continue the Rural Idaho Economic Development Professionals program. The three-year program is a cornerstone of Kempthorne's Rural Idaho Initiative launched in 2001. The \$500,000 program allows counties or groups of counties to hire local economic development professionals. Each area will use \$41,500 to pay a competitive salary and benefit package. Each area professional works with Idaho Commerce & Labor staff on economic development projects designed to create jobs and foster private investment throughout rural Idaho. Local match is provided in office space, supplies and travel expenses. After a competitive bidding process, the original 12 program participants were selected to continue their economic development activities. Eligible counties included those with populations of less than 50,000 and unemployment rates above 6.5% or a per-capita income of less than 80% of the state average. Areas selected to receive the funds and the names of the local economic development professionals include:

- \* Boundary County Economic Development Council, Robin Ponsness
- \* Silver Valley Economic Development Corporation (Shoshone County), Vince Rinaldi
- \* Clearwater County Economic Development, Rene Gingrich
- \* Payette County Economic Development, Ron Wrest
- \* Ida-Lew Economic Development (Idaho and Lewis Counties), Shaun Maxey
- \* Washington Adams Vision for Entrepreneurship (WAVE), Gil Bates
- \* EDGE Economic Development (Gem and Boise Counties), Morris Huffman
- \* 3CASI Economic Development (Franklin, Oneida, and Bear Lake Counties), Richard Westerberg
- \* Joint Clark & Fremont Economic Development, Peter Gladstone
- \* Custer Lemhi Economic Development, Gynii Gilliam
- \* Rural Magic Valley Economic Development Association (Gooding and Lincoln Counties), James 'Scotty' Scott
- \* Upper Payette River Economic Development (Valley and Boise Counties), John Blaye

**Community Development Arts-News** - There is a new information service from the Idaho Commission on the Arts. The e-newsletter is dedicated to sharing innovative arts projects, news and information to encourage networking and empowerment among Idaho's arts communities. The e-newsletter is written and compiled by Delta Smith, Community Development Director. If you wish to receive future issues, have ideas for inclusions or suggestions, or if you know of other interested recipients, please respond to [dsmith@ica.state.id.us](mailto:dsmith@ica.state.id.us).

**Annual Rural Development Conference** - The 2004 National Rural Development Partnership (NRDP) Annual Leadership Conference will be held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, August 30-September 2, 2004. The agenda focuses on 'Opening Gateways to Rural America' and includes sessions on health care, tourism, agriculture, entrepreneurship, technology, workforce development and more. For more information, a complete schedule and registration form go to <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/nrdp/Oklahoma.html>. Pre-registration is due by July 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Native American Economic Development** - Launched in 1993 as First Nations' flagship grant making program, the ESF provides grants and technical assistance to models of culturally appropriate economic development that use asset-based strategies. Since 1994, the ESF has

awarded 200 grants totaling \$8.6 million. To qualify for ESF funding, all projects must be located on, or linked through the provision of a service or product to, a reservation or rural Native community. ESF currently offers three different types of general grants: Seed, Start-Up, and Working Capital, as well as special initiatives. Details available at [www.firstnations.org](http://www.firstnations.org)

**Rural Emergency Grants** - Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced that \$100 million is committed for a new USDA First Responder Initiative to support rural emergency responder efforts by prioritizing the financing for needed equipment and services. Veneman said that as part of USDA's First Responder Initiative, a minimum of one dollar of every five dollars of fiscal year 2004 community facility funding available, will be dedicated to first responder type requests. USDA Rural Development provides financing of a variety of community facilities, such as: libraries, courthouses, fire and rescue facilities and equipment, police and emergency vehicles and services and other community focused facilities and services. The initiative will prioritize the funding of at least \$100 million to specifically strengthen the ability of rural communities to respond to local emergencies. Funding of selected applicants will be contingent upon meeting the conditions of the loan and/or grant agreement. A list of the individual awards can be found at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/newsroom/2004/firstresponders2004list.html>.

**Free Assistance With OSHA Available** - The Idaho Occupational Safety and Health Consultation Program (OSHCon) is a federally funded resource housed at Boise State University and serving all communities throughout the state of Idaho. OSHCon provides on-site evaluations of small businesses, review and assistance with written safety and health programs, air quality monitoring, training videos, print materials and more at no charge to small businesses. To learn more call 208/426-3283 or go to [www2.boisestate.edu/oshconsult](http://www2.boisestate.edu/oshconsult).

**Community Support from the Gannett Foundation** - The Gannett Foundation provides support to nonprofit organizations that serve the communities in more than forty states (including Idaho) where Gannett Co., Inc., owns a local daily newspaper or TV station. In Idaho, cash grants are awarded three times annually to qualified non-profit organizations through the Gannett Foundation. A committee of employees review requests and recommend contributions to organizations that improve the education, health and advancement of people in their distribution area. The deadlines for applications is **and August 15**. Gannett Foundation requests are reviewed based on several criteria and the completion of an application that are both available on line at <http://www.idahostatesman.com/CustSvc/community-programs.asp>. For more information regarding Gannett Foundation, please contact Heather Harradine, Assistant to the Publisher, The Idaho Statesman, at (208) 377-6300.

**Small Business Information Forum** - This one day forum provides important and valuable information that can help the attendee handle starting a new business. Several government agencies, both federal and state, will be attending to answer questions such as: What responsibilities come with having employees-When to pay sales tax - How to avoid penalties- Which forms to file and when and where to file the forms- How to get SBA assistance. The cost is only \$10 and pre-registration is required. The remaining 2004 sessions are scheduled for **September 9 and November 18** in Boise at the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. To register or for more information, visit <http://www2.state.id.us/iic/register.htm>, or phone Lola Barnett at (208) 334-6032.

**Governor's Aging Conference** - Film and TV actor George Kennedy will help kick off the 2004 Idaho Governor's Conference on Aging themed "Aging Well - Living Well," a three-day symposium focusing on the benefits and challenges of planning for your and your loved ones' golden years. Governor Dirk Kempthorne and the Idaho Commission on Aging are hosting the conference **September 13-15** at the Doubletree Riverside Hotel in Boise as part of Governor Kempthorne's initiative as chairman of the National Governors' Association to draw attention to long-term care challenges. Sessions include life-long learning, personal health and care, financial planning, Medicare, long-term care and caregiver support. The conference cost, which has a minimal fee for seniors, will include some meals. The event will also provide free and low-cost health services, as well as informational booths for all attendees. For information on attending, becoming a sponsor of the conference, having a vendor or health fair booth, contact Jacqueline Hooper at the Idaho Commission on Aging at 208-334-3833 or via email at [jhooper@icoa.state.id.us](mailto:jhooper@icoa.state.id.us).

**"The Perfect Market"** - Frank Odasz recently read a 14 page Ecommerce Survey from the Economist magazine entitled "The Perfect Market" (<http://economist.com/surveys> Print copies \$4.50, call ph. 212 541 0532). He submitted the following summary of the article to IRP: It says "there has never been a better time to start an ebusiness. The Internet is wildly empowering for those who use it to participate, but they are part of a digital elite." 430,000 people have used ebay to create their own fulltime businesses. Ebay users sold \$24 billion in goods last year and ebay continues to be one of the world's fastest growing businesses. Ebay hosts 150,000 e-stores run by users. Ebay has 100 million users and has set up local systems in 28 countries, with China being the fastest growing. In the U.S. 75% of homes have Internet with 50 million having high speed Internet. Those with high speed find it is wonderfully convenient to shop online with better prices being common. "Price transparency" is changing both offline and online buying. More and more people research products for best prices and features online, even if they buy the product offline. Many sites exist that instantly list the best prices nationally, such as <http://mysimon.com> 35 million Americans bought travel services online last year. Apple sells 2.5 million songs a week for 99 cents each. Walmart now sells songs online for 88 cents. Netflix.com rents DVDs by the millions and is growing rapidly. The 24% of homes without Internet are missing out on the best prices and new self-employment possibilities. Women and Seniors are the fastest growing groups of online shoppers. I've just bought three books from Amazon.com. For under \$11 I strongly recommend "Free Agent Nation: The Future of Working for Yourself." For \$17 and \$15 I bought Ebay for Dummies and Starting an Ebay Business for Dummies. Many of us need someone to encourage us to get started. This type of mentoring and training support can become the impetus for creating community networks; people-centered community knowledge systems. It is just a matter of who and when. PS: The Lone Eagle Self-Employment Incubator is at <http://lone-eagles.oldcolo.com> Use the Internet Explorer browser to view. This is an example of community software for organizing and managing content. See the photogalleries and various collaborative tools.